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California

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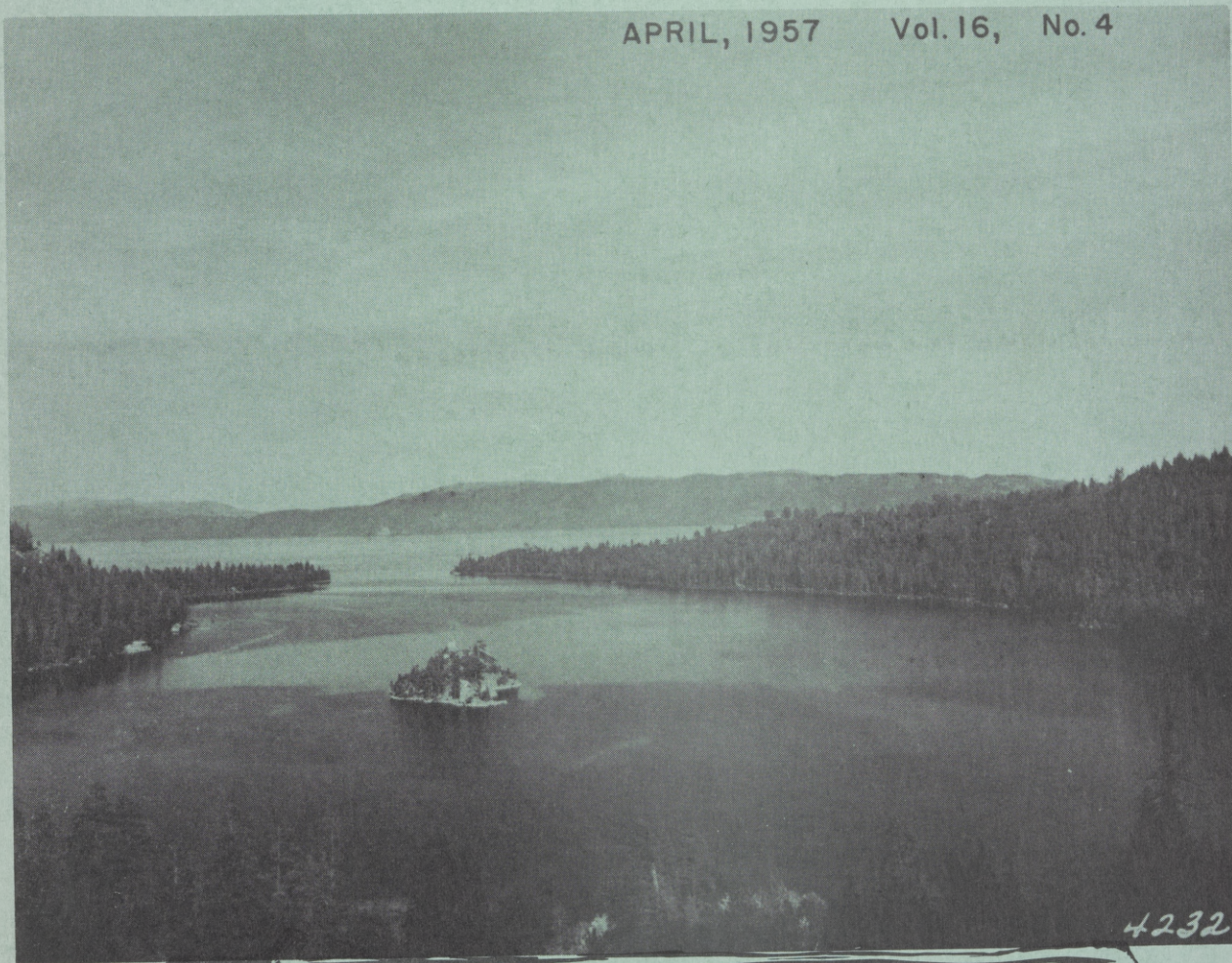
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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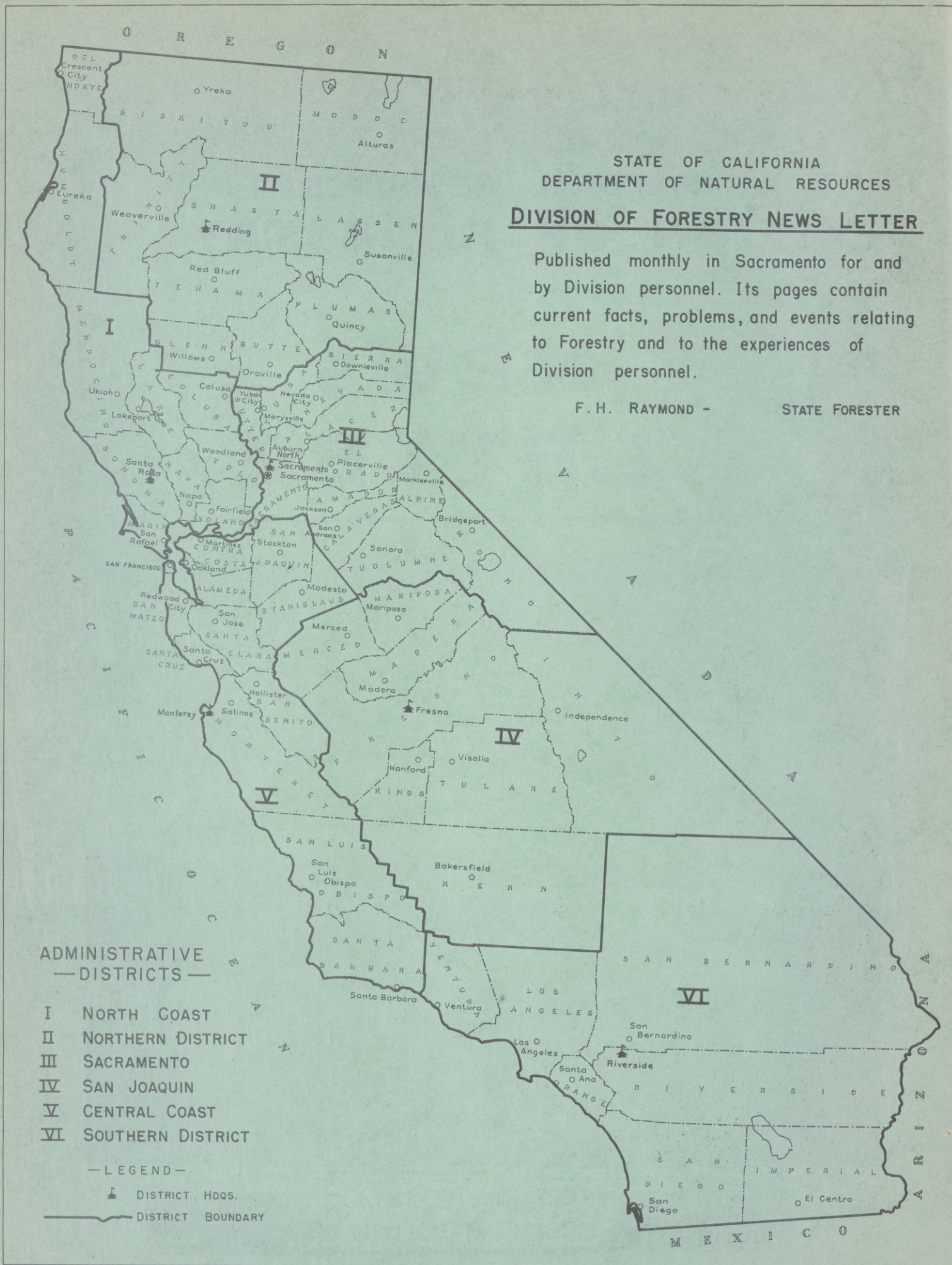
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KEEP CALIFORNIA
GREEN and GOLDEN



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS LETTER

Published monthly in Sacramento for and by Division personnel. Its pages contain current facts, problems, and events relating to Forestry and to the experiences of Division personnel.

F. H. RAYMOND -

STATE FORESTER



CALIFORNIA LAUREL

CALIFORNIA LAUREL

Scientific Name: Umbellularia Californica (Umm-bell-you-lair-ee-uh).

Common Names: Laurel, bay, pepperwood, Oregon myrtle; (rare) spicetree, green baytree, California sassafras. (Note: The only names used throughout most of the redwood region is pepperwood. From Oregon comes the ridiculous and persistent legend that this tree grows only in Oregon).

Location: This is probably the most widely distributed native tree in California although it rarely covers large area in pure stands. Throughout southwest Oregon, down the entire Coast Range; the lower Sierra from Siskiyou south into Tule Indian Reservation; across the San Gabriel Range and south to Mexico. On dryer sites in the gulches, sometimes as a strip along the watercourse; in the forested coastal area, mixed with other species and most common on the dryer slopes. Not present in desert or near desert, nor high up into the Sierra timber belt, nor on floor of Great Valley.

Associates: Madrone, tanoak, redwood, Douglas fir, oaks, alder, ponderosa pine, maple, buckeye.

Uses: Wood is heavy and hard, light in color and very beautiful as veneer, especially burls. Currently popular in lathe products, such as bowls, gavels, etc. Once used extensively for furniture, ship dowels and braces, and wherever strong, hard wood needed. Power post beetles quickly destroy exposed wood such as fence posts. Makes an excellent fuel.

Identification: An evergreen. Crown generally rounded; in open site old trees become rounded like a bee-hive, with appearance of having been clipped to perfection. Younger trees more spire-like. Crown easily molded by strong wind, sometimes taking form of beat-down shrubs along seacoast. Foliage very dense.

Leaves mostly 3 to 5 inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide; smooth edge, no teeth, no lobes, both sides nearly symmetrical, prominent mid-rib, yellowish veins on underside quite visible. Upper surface medium to dark yellow-green, polished; under surface lighter yellow-green, less polished. Leaves sometimes curl down at edges a little, sometimes twist slightly. Pale yellow flowers appear in early spring on stalks about one inch long.

Fruit like yellow-green, shiny olive or plum. Hang by 2's or 3's from stem which grows from branchlet just above base of leaf stem. Fruit quite round about 1 inch long, thin skin over large nut. Young twigs are green turning brownish with age and size.

Trunks rarely over 4 feet diameter, 80 feet high, but very old trees much larger. Trunks branch heavily near ground. Stumps sprout vigorously often causing several trunks to grow into a family group.

Bark light gray-brown in youth, becoming darker sometimes with slight reddish cast with age. Bark thin, slightly scaly in youth, becoming very warty with age, not deeply furrowed.

Entire tree, but especially leaves gives off spicy odor like camphor-peppermint. Crushed leaves are so pungent they may cause sneezing or headache.

Confused with: Some willows or maybe the rare wax myrtle. Some canyon live oak leaves could appear similar to laurel at a distance. A few shrubs have a little resemblance, such as cascara.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

The largest fire of the month occurred on March 25 and burned 160 acres. It was located southeast of Ramona in San Diego County.

A report was given on last year's lightning control program at the Ranger's meeting in Redding, and the Division's research and development program was explained at the Redding Forest Forum. This report covered Helitack, retardant chemicals, and air tankers.

In order to allocate funds for Fiscal Year 1957-58 to the Forest Service for the protection of private lands within the National Forests, considerable effort during the month has gone into the determination of the most practical and equitable method of allocation, based upon the Fire Plan, for the Forests. Meetings were held with all field deputies to discuss and evaluate the problem and concurrence was reached on a method of approach.

Representatives of the Dispatching-Radio-Communications function worked on radio budgeting matters with all six district offices, and instituted the first used radio equipment sale to be held at Davis.

Through correspondence with the Forestry Conservation Communication Association, Region IV Chairman in Olympia, Washington, and the F.C.C.A. National President's office in Weeks Mills, Maine, this office has been engaged in requesting from Federal Communications Commission additional V.H.F. radio channels for use in California. Additionally, a program designed to obtain micro-wave frequencies for future use at Lookout sites throughout the State has also been activated.

As part of the co-operative forest fire aerial attack program, the Division is working on the installation of a 400 gallon tank in the torpedo bay of a surplus Navy Grumman T.B.M.

Several of these airplanes have been secured by Region 5 for use on initial attack, and support of ground forces on larger fires.

Plans are being made to test the aircraft at Redding during the week of April 8-12 under the same test procedures as used to evaluate the agriculture aircraft used in California last year.

If the tank and gates are acceptable, it is planned to place the one plane in operation near Albuquerque, New Mexico, on their early season fires prior to completing tank installations on the remainder of the airplanes.

FOREST, RANGE, AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

FOREST PRACTICES: A joint meeting of Forest Practice Committees of the Redwood, North Sierra Pine, South Sierra Pine, and the Coast Range Pine and Fir Forest Districts was held in Sacramento on March 20th. The purpose of the meeting was to conclude final recommendations with regard to proposed amendment of the Forest Practice Act. Members of the Committees met with the Board of Forestry the following day on the same subject. At the Board of Forestry meeting the recommendations of the Forest Practice Committees were reviewed and a final proposed draft of amendments decided upon for submission to the Legislature.

TIMBER TAXATION: The timber taxation study committee established by the Board of Forestry and the Board of Equalization at their joint conference in February, met in Sacramento on March 23rd. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of committee representation and organization. A proposed outline for the study which is to be conducted in Mendocino County was also presented. The committee decided to meet again in April.

FOREST REGENERATION: Details of an experimental co-operative study involving the State Forest Nurseries and the School of Forestry were formulated during the past month. The project involves soil fertilization tests using the soils of the three district nurseries at Parlin Fork (Mendocino County), Magalia (Butte County), and Ben Lomond (Santa Cruz County), with various strengths of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. The tests will be conducted at each nursery and will be uniform in nature.

The project also involves the growing of 2,000 ponderosa pine seedlings from each of the six seed zones. This will require 12,000 seedlings to be produced at each nursery.

In the 1957-58 budget there is a request for \$10,000 for research regarding reforestation. If approved, it will provide for a co-operative project with the University of California to do additional research on this problem.

During the month of March, two large plantings of forest trees were made by the Division. At the Forest Ranch Forest Fire Station 4,000 Jeffrey and ponderosa pine and white fir seedlings were planted. On the Pine Hill Lookout site 4,500 trees comprised of ponderosa pine, Douglas and white fir were also planted. Inmates of the Magalia Honor Camp accomplished the planting under supervision of Division personnel at the Forest Ranch site and on Pine Hill the Pine Grove Honor Camp was involved.

Personnel from the Division attended and assisted in the annual planting project of the Sacramento Hoo Hoo Club. Its planting site is in El Dorado County where 750 ponderosa pine seedlings were planted. This is the second year of the project. Last year's planting shows that 87 percent of the trees survived.

FOREST INSECTS: The program topic at the March meeting of the Sacramento-Tahoe Forest Forum at Nevada City concerned the problems involved in the control of forest insects within the Osborne Hill Zone of Infestation in Yuba, Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado Counties. At the present time the Division is conducting control operations with co-operation of landowners within this Zone. The program consisted of a panel which included representatives of the Division, an entomologist from the California Forest and Range Experiment Station, the large landowners, and the small landowners. Some concern was expressed over the fact that the success of the control work may be impaired by the fact that all owners within the zone are not interested enough in control to share the cost with the State.

NATURAL RESOURCE LIBRARY IS OPENED

In January of 1957, the Department of Natural Resources in co-operation with the Department of Fish and Game acquired a very handy and useful library. The history of the acquisition is lengthy and involves consideration of administration, finance, and wider use of materials. As a result, the new library consists of the former Fish and Game Library established in 1927, and the libraries of this Department (Natural Resources) which were housed in various divisional offices. Now, every State employee of both Departments can use the facilities of this library, either directly or by writing to the librarian.

In charge of all library activities is Mrs. Evelyn Oathout, who formerly was the Fish and Game Librarian. At the present time she has a part-time assistant who will become permanent after July 1, 1957. A committee composed of personnel from the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game handles all matters of policy.

The new library is housed in the southeast corner on the third floor of State Office Building Number 1. Tables are available for those with extensive research projects and small group meetings can be accommodated if arrangements are made with the librarian. Quarterly accession lists will be mimeographed and distributed to personnel along with divisional house organs. Mrs. Oathout may be reached on extension 2031.

It is planned and hoped that the new library will provide wider use of materials and that personnel will be further helped by having a wider selection of readily available natural history references.

John F. Shrawder, Supervisor
Conservation Education

THE FOLLOWING MEMO REGARDING THE LIBRARY WAS SENT TO THE FIELD ON MAY 8, 1957

We have received information that the Natural Resources' Library is now open, and books and materials are now available to all employees of the Department. Requests may be made by individuals directly to Mrs. Evelyn Oathout, Librarian, State Building No. 1, Sacramento 14. Individuals may have the book or material for a period of six weeks, and under unusual circumstances, if there is no particular demand for the book or material, this may be extended; however, any extension must be checked on at least a week or two prior to the due date.

In checking with the Departmental Librarian, individuals are requested to make suggestions for materials. At the present time the amount of forestry, resource, and information material is somewhat limited, and additional material

can be obtained by the Librarian if it can be put to general use.

A number of copies of a select list of library items is being forwarded to all Districts, and it is requested that they be given wide distribution so that all of our employees will be aware of this informational facility. At the present time it appears that the procedure will be to mail the books with enclosed return postage for the convenience of handling.

E. H. Bertsch, Deputy State Forester

DIVISION IS PROSPECTIVE HEIR TO FORTUNE

Under the wise guidance of that great friend of Forestry, Governor George C. Pardee, Chapter 187 was signed into law on the same day in March, 1905, on which the law was approved creating the position of State Forester.

Chapter 187 provides that when the Federal government honors California claims for reimbursement of money spent in the Civil and Indian Wars, then \$100,000 shall go into State Forestry Fund and "the money shall be devoted to an acquisition, preservation, and protection of forests within this State, and to scientific forestry generally."

C. R. Clar

RESOLUTION GW-14/57 SUBMITTED AT C.S.E.A. GENERAL COUNCIL, LONG BEACH

Subject: Defensive Driving Training Course For All State Employees Who Operate State Owned Vehicles

Submitted by: Yosemite Chapter No. 118

WHEREAS, the State of California owns many thousands of pieces of automotive equipment of all types and is driven by thousands of employees under all conditions, and,

WHEREAS, the reportable accident rate per thousand miles driven by most agencies is quite high and

WHEREAS, the accident rate of the Division of Forestry of the Department of Natural Resources has been materially reduced since the initiation of a Statewide program of Defensive Driving in this Division, this program has been quite successful in private industry also, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a Statewide program of Defensive Driving be initiated in all agencies of State Government to cut down the toll of accidents to State owned vehicles and injuring State employees, and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSEA take necessary action to encourage all State agencies to adopt a defensive driving training program.

ACTION: Adopted as amended.

FROM NEWS SERVICE
NATIONAL LUMBER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
NL-27-57

One of the outstanding advantages of a home with lumber framing and wood siding is that it can be easily and economically expanded. No one realized this more than John Tyler, 10th President of the United States.

When Tyler purchased a wood home some 30 miles from Richmond, Virginia, in 1842, he proceeded to more than double its size until it was 300 feet long, one room deep throughout, with the main portion two and a-half stories high. The Tyler mansion, now occupied by a grandson, is believed to be the longest dwelling in the world. But Tyler had a real need for such a large home, being the father of 14 children.

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Americans used 39.3 billion board feet of lumber last year---enough to build a 30-foot boardwalk from the earth to the moon should space travel become practicable for pedestrians. Softwood consumption accounted for more than 80 per cent of this total. The 1956 consumption figure was seven per cent below 1955 but two per cent above 1954, three per cent above 1953 and about the same as in 1952.

INTERESTING COMMENTS BY BEN ALLEN

This does not presume to be a report by an expert on the subject of fire prevention and suppression. The fire fighting aspect of the Malibu disaster has been extensively reported by experts and this lay report is concerned largely with public reactions and possible lessons in the realm of gaining additional support for our co-operative campaigns in the various phases of both fire prevention and suppression.

But as a preface to certain related comment and conclusions, reserved for the end of this report, I feel you may be interested in a field survey I was permitted to make of the actual battlefields of the Malibu, Lake Sherwood, and Hume fires.

The only credentials I needed was in the form of a letter of introduction to James Mace in charge of the Division of Forestry at headquarters in Riverside from Francis Raymond.

Jim Mace gave me a detailed briefing on what I ought to see and to make certain that I would, he turned me over to Elmer Osterman, Assistant ranger of the Division of Forestry for fire fighting in the Riverside district. He had had charge of some of the critical fire lines during the Sherwood Lake, the Hume, and Malibu fires. No better informed guide could have been procured. He had been on the fire lines on foot, by fire truck and from above in a helicopter. The final pictures of the fire area from the air had been taken under his direction the day before, in company with Raleigh Taylor. The complete picture, including shots of the actual fire, is being processed and we will be given a print for preview as soon as the film arrives in Sacramento.

We followed the ridge roads above the burnt area wherever a Ford could go and that meant that we covered about 70 miles of the worst devastation by a brush fire that I have ever seen. The ruins round beautiful Lake Sherwood were tragic.

Even a county fire station on the lake was victim of the flames.

Venturesome lovers of the outdoors had built summer homes in the bottom of some of the deepest canyons and only the late season kept the toll of lost lives to the amazing total of only one. Even a four-lane freeway, in several instances, was no protection to costly beach homes. To give an idea of the power of the flames originating in the deep draws, one beach home caught fire from its seaward side; the flames were so powerful that they blacklashed when they met the cool ocean wind.

It was a defensive action by the fighters with the initiative enjoyed by the offensive flames. But every sector provided evidence of some sound strategy and well-planned logistics. The outstanding evidence that it was not always a losing battle was provided by the high ridge between the Lake Sherwood and Hume fires-- still clad in its vernal green this ridge is an outstanding tribute to the heroic and smart backfiring by the allied fire fighters. Another instance was the saving of the army's Nike firing range, exposed on two flanks and saved by daring backfiring. Constantly, one was reminded that the strategy of forest fire suppression is strikingly like a military operation. That is why our fire prevention and suppression people can learn valuable lessons from the Malibu. We hope to have an early opportunity to preview the film recording them.

The last and most pleasing sight I had of the terrain of the fire was the green carpet just emerging from the ugly black ashes. Since then, this protection against erosion has grown until it promises to serve its purpose of flood control until the region brush, regrown, takes over.

And that brings the shoemaker of this report to his last; some comment and conclusions regarding public interest in forest fire prevention and control. Why was a forester, trained in the protection of valuable forests of the Sierra pine region, sent to Southern California to take over the direction of protecting brush? The industrial forests of Southern California provide only a minute portion of the economy of their region. In our region we try to get rid of the brush in our wild-lands. Our neighbors to the south protect theirs as a chief factor in their total economy.

Just mention water in Southern California and you have touched a subject of vital concern to everyone. Brush and water there are integrated to an extent undreamed of in our region. It is not necessary to expand in detail on this relationship, since it is so apparent that brush is a major factor in flood control and other aspects of sound watershed management.

The fire department of Los Angeles County for this year will spend more money for the control of brush fires than we will use for the prevention and suppression of forest fires in our region where forest products provide our chief economy -- and every cent can be justified.

But the principles of conservation of our forests, whether they be for commercial use or for protection of other resources, are precisely the same and that is why Jim Mace and others of his caliber are guiding public relations in the south.

The State Division of Forestry maintains close relations with its Federal counterpart and the fire departments of four counties, which have their own forestry organizations. And, the region is well served by voluntary organizations, similar in aims and operation to our own. One needs only to remind you of the fine job

done by the Southern California Conservation Council under the able direction and inspiration of our good friend William Rosecrans.

There are also numerous community efforts, serving to spread the gospel of conservation. The various public organizations make wise use of their support and interest. The result is a well-informed public. This public is interested in our problems and quite willing to give us their help when their solution requires state-wide action.

A comforting thought for us is that our Southern California friends know that we are engaged in a common cause and they are eager to share their experiences and methods with us. For instance, they enjoy the co-operation of the radio, motion picture and television facilities of Hollywood, the production center for spot announcements, trailers and TV shorts. But these are available to us through the State Division of Forestry and our Keep Green affiliates, such as the Keep Green Committee of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Our radio spots are widely used and appreciated in the South and our printed fire prevention material is welcome there. It is indeed a common cause and its fundamental supports do not differ from north to south; our forests and their brush are equally important to the social and industrial economy of the state.

May I conclude by extending my warm thanks for the courtesy and co-operation of Francis Raymond, James Mace, Elmer Osterman and Raleigh Taylor, enabling me to present this informal report.

s/ Ben S. Allen
Redwood Region Conservation Council

MT. BULLION FORESTRY CAMP TO BE OFFICIALLY DEDICATED

On May 11, 1957, the Mt. Bullion Forestry Camp is to be officially dedicated. The dedication is to be preceded by a barbeque arranged by the Central California Supervisor's Association.

Mt. Bullion Forestry Camp was occupied on October 1, 1956, with the complement of 65 wards. This camp is to be used for the usual Forestry type work which consists of Forestry truck trails, firebreaks, telephone line construction and maintenance, and other related Forestry activities.

L. T. Petersen
Deputy State Forester

PERSONNEL CHANGES SINCE OUR MARCH REPORT

Sacramento Administration: Eugene Bertsch, former Assistant Deputy in District VI, has been appointed Deputy State Forester in charge of the Fire Prevention Education section, replacing William H. Fairbank.

John R. Ritchey, formerly a Trainee in District V, has been appointed Assistant Technician at the Davis Nursery, to replace Donald Goddard who recently resigned.

District I: Richard H. Bawcom has been appointed Assistant Technician replacing Theodore J. Waddell. Mr. Bawcom was also a Trainee in District V prior to his promotion.

Assistant Ranger Alfred Poe recently retired from his position in Napa County.

District II: Verne R. Osburn, recently returned from military leave; has been reinstated as Forestry Trainee in District II.

District IV: Frank Crossfield, former Assistant Ranger in District III, has been promoted to Associate Ranger to replace Norman Nicholson in Mariposa County, District IV.

District V: Theodore Waddell has been appointed Associate Ranger in the District V headquarters. He was formerly Assistant Technician in District I.

Richard Ford, who was Assistant Ranger in Mendocino County, has been promoted to Associate Ranger in Monterey County, replacing Godfrey German.

District VI: George W. King has been promoted from Dispatcher to Assistant Ranger in Orange County and has been assigned to field duties rather than dispatching.

ANOTHER QUARTER CENTURY CLUB MEMBER

At noon, Friday, April 5, 1957, forty-five fellow-employee friends of Henry Gaub, Assistant State Forest Ranger in Butte County gathered at a local restaurant to launch him into the ranks of the ever growing number of CDF employees who can lay claim to twenty-five years of public service.

It seems that Henry, an unassuming quiet type of man, had gotten wind that some kind of celebration was slated to come off on Wednesday the 3rd, so on the 3rd, he wore a necktie, and otherwise spruced up for the occasion. When nothing happened, off came the necktie and tight shoes with a sigh of relief. Typically, however, he never asked a question or mentioned a word about what had happened to the celebration he had expected. And you can believe us that by Friday it was no easy task to get "Hank" back into the tight shoes and necktie, let alone drag him into the restaurant for the festivities.

In addition to the delicious dinner, we heard a brief run-down on some of the high lights of "Hank's" career with the Division. Speakers included Ed Biggs, retired Ranger; Doc. Hufford, Ranger, Tehama County; Charles Campbell, Ranger, Butte County; V. O. Josephson, Driver, Butte County; and others who have known "Hank" for many years in Butte County.

Deputy State Forester George Grogan was unable to attend the dinner, and was represented by Assistant Deputy State Forester Herb Kaufner, of Redding who made the presentation of the Twenty-Five Year Certificate and Pin.

Assistant State Forest Ranger, Bill Ensbury was Master of Ceremonies and put on a very entertaining program.

FIFTEEN YEAR CLERICAL EMPLOYEE LEAVES STATE SERVICE

On April 30th, 1957, Butte County will lose one of its oldest employees in point of service. Mrs. C. E. Murrell "Jerry" has decided to leave her position as Intermediate Stenographer-Clerk, which she has held since April 6, 1942.

When "Jerry" started with the Division there was no full-time dispatchers and that work was handled by the clerk in the office and many of the fires in Butte County at that time were dispatched by "Jerry." This was not an easy job in those days since we did not have the present radio set-up, which enables a far simpler dispatching system to function nowadays, with far more efficiency. In spite of clumsy communications "Jerry" handled the job with surprisingly accurate results, since it was most unusual even then to have a lady dispatcher operating in any of the Division offices. However, dispatching alone was not one of "Jerry's" most notable achievements with the Division. As we all know we in the field depend in a very great measure upon the clerical staff in the offices to enable us to do a creditable job, and it was in her capacity as stenographer-clerk that "Jerry" did her most outstanding work. No matter how often we would fire questions in about any subject from property to fire control, "Jerry" always had an answer or got one right quick and seldom was it the wrong answer.

During the time "Jerry" worked at Oroville she saw three Rangers come and go and worked for a short time under the fourth Ranger. Only one man now working in Butte County has put in more time there than "Jerry," all the rest of us have come and several have gone during the time of her employment.

It is with regret that we see "Jerry" leave, but feel as she does, that her seven month old baby girl, Jan., needs her Mother more at this time than we do. One thing about living in a small community like Oroville is that no neighbor is ever so far away that they will not be seen on occasion, and, of course, we will always be glad to see "Jerry."

J. M. Scholey
Associate State Forest Ranger

KINGS COUNTY

Conservation Week found this unit busy showing films, presenting talks, and distributing literature and posters. Among the Kings County schools who held auditorium sessions for conservation programs were Kit Carson, Lakeside Union, Kettleman City, Stratford, Woodrow Wilson, and John Muir. Almost 1,800 persons attended the programs.

Associate Forest Ranger Curt Lindley attended the conference training held in Sanger last week - better known to the gang as the Charm School.

The sick spells seem to have run their course around here and everyone is off the shelf now. Mrs. N. O. Stephens, the wife of the Assistant Ranger, was last on the sick list and is on the mend.

Ranger and Mrs. Lindley attended the annual meeting in San Diego last week and report a gala time was had. Lindley said he is looking forward to another invitation from the south.

Observers of the grain and grass crops in Kings County feel sure a bumper crop is in the making. The small amount of rain that reached this area came at the time to do the most good.

The proposed naval air base in Lemoore seems to be the main topic of conversation in Kings County. Land and building prices are continuing on the up

grade. It looks like a working man will only be able to afford to own a trailer (a small one at that).

We have noticed one of our drivers getting an early start on being prepared. He has started a worm farm in the back 40 in preparation for the Spring trout season rush.

C. E. Lindley
Associate State Forest Ranger

DISTRICT VI

Several weeks ago the following men received that little slip of paper from the Personnel Board with the glad tidings: "Congratulations. You were successful in your recent examination." They were as follows: Fred Cain, Don Keys, Doug Glenn, Gerald Letson, Elmer Benson, Wayne King, Dave Flake, Jim Whitlock, Ordean Monsen, Sam Heidanus, Luther Gordon, Tom Holland, William Peterson, LeRoy Rockwell, Lee Roy Worsham, and Noble Tibbs.

James K. Mace
Deputy State Forester